

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 11, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2000

SENATE BILL

No. 2196

Introduced by Senator Alpert

March 16, 2000

An act to ~~add and repeal~~ *amend* Section 601.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to juvenile offenders, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 2196, as amended, Alpert. At-Risk Youth Early Intervention Program.

Existing law authorizes ~~the counties~~ *a county*, upon adoption of a resolution by the board of supervisors, to establish an At-Risk Youth Early Intervention Program designed to assess and serve families with children who have chronic behavioral problems that place the child at risk of becoming a ward of the juvenile court. Each program includes one or more neighborhood-based Youth Referral Centers for at-risk youth and their families. A minor may be referred to the program if he or she is at least 10 years of age and believed to be at risk of justice system involvement due to specified chronic behavioral problems.

This bill would revise those provisions to provide that the program shall be administered by the Board of Corrections. The program would award grants to counties on a competitive basis, as specified. The bill would require the board to award grants that provide funding for up to 4 years, and to establish

standards for awarding grants, as specified. The bill would delete the requirement that minors referred to the program be at least 10 years of age and would also delete references to the Youth Referral Centers.

The bill would also require the board to submit an interim report to the Legislature regarding the grant program on or before March 1, 2002, and to submit a final report on or before January 1, 2005. The bill would provide that these provisions would be operative upon the appropriation of funds by the Legislature for these purposes, as specified.

The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 601.5 of the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code is amended to read:

3 601.5. (a) The Legislature hereby creates the At-Risk
4 Youth Early Intervention Program. The program shall be
5 administered by the Board of Corrections for the purpose
6 of serving families with children who have chronic
7 behavioral problems that place the child at risk of
8 becoming a ward of the juvenile court under Section 601
9 or 602. The purpose of the program is to provide a swift
10 and local service response to youth behavior problems so
11 that future delinquent or criminal conduct may be
12 prevented.

13 (b) The At-Risk Youth Early Intervention Program
14 shall award grants to counties on a competitive basis
15 following request-for-proposal evaluation standards and
16 guidelines developed by the Board of Corrections, as
17 authorized by this section, after considering
18 recommendations from an executive steering committee
19 appointed by the board and chaired by a sitting board
20 member, which includes, but is not limited to,
21 representatives of the juvenile court, the State
22 Department of Social Services, the Department of
23 Education, and the State Department of Mental Health,



1 a representative of a community-based agency
2 specializing in youth services or a mental health
3 professional experienced in serving at-risk youth or
4 youthful offenders and their families, a sheriff, and a chief
5 probation officer. To be eligible for this grant, each
6 county shall be required to establish a multiagency
7 juvenile justice coordinating council with membership
8 pursuant to Section 749.22. If a county has an established
9 existing collaborative council with membership
10 consisting of representatives from those agencies and
11 organizations required in Section 749.22, those councils
12 shall meet the requirement of this section.

13 (c) The At-Risk Youth Early Intervention Programs
14 proposed by counties under the standards and guidelines
15 set forth by the Board of Corrections shall be approved by
16 the local multiagency juvenile justice coordinating
17 council and shall include service and support strategies
18 for at-risk youth and their families. These strategies shall
19 be flexibly designed by each participating county to serve
20 the local at-risk youth population with family assessments,
21 onsite services, referrals to offsite services, other services
22 specifically designed to address the needs of at-risk youth
23 and their families, or a combination of any of these. The
24 operator of a program may be a private nonprofit
25 community-based agency or a public agency, or both.
26 Programs shall include youth and family service
27 counselors who may be public or private employees and
28 who shall be experienced in dealing with at-risk youth
29 who are eligible for the program, as described in
30 subdivision (d). Programs also may reflect a collaborative
31 service model involving youth and family counselors,
32 probation officers, school representatives, health and
33 mental health practitioners, or other service providers.

34 (d) A minor may be referred to an At-Risk Youth Early
35 Intervention Program by a parent or guardian, a law
36 enforcement officer, a probation officer, a child welfare
37 agency, or a school, or a minor may self-refer. A minor
38 may be referred to the program if the minor is believed
39 by the referring source to be at risk of justice system
40 involvement due to chronic disobedience to parents,

1 curfew violations, repeat truancy, incidents of running
2 away from home, experimentation with drugs or alcohol,
3 or other serious behavior problems. Whenever a minor is
4 referred to the program, an initial determination shall be
5 made as to whether the minor is engaged in a pattern of
6 at-risk behavior likely to result in future justice system
7 involvement, and, if satisfied that the minor is
8 significantly at risk, the program shall initiate a family
9 assessment. The family assessment shall identify the
10 minor's behavioral problem, the family's circumstances
11 and relationship to the problem, and the needs of the
12 minor or the family in relation to the behavioral problem.
13 The assessment shall be performed using a risk and needs
14 assessment instrument, based on national models of
15 successful youth risk and needs assessment instruments
16 and utilizing objective assessment criteria, as appropriate
17 for the clientele served by the program. At a minimum,
18 the assessment shall include information drawn from
19 interviews with the minor and with the parents or other
20 adults having custody of the minor, and it shall include
21 information on the minor's probation, school, health, and
22 mental health status to the extent ~~such~~ *that* information
23 may be available and accessible.

24 (e) The juvenile court of any county participating in
25 the At-Risk Youth Early Intervention Program shall
26 designate a judicial officer to serve as a liaison to the
27 program in order to participate in the development of the
28 program and to coordinate program operations with the
29 juvenile court. The liaison judicial officer may be
30 designated by the juvenile court as the principal judicial
31 officer assigned to review and hear petitions filed under
32 this section, or if the court does not elect to designate a
33 principal judicial officer to hear these cases, the juvenile
34 court shall take steps to train or familiarize other judicial
35 officers reviewing or hearing these cases as to the
36 operations, procedures, and services of the At-Risk Youth
37 Early Intervention Program.

38 (f) The Board of Corrections shall award grants that
39 provide funding for up to four years. Funding shall be
40 used to supplement, rather than supplant, existing

1 programs. Grant funds shall be used for programs that are
2 identified in the request-for-proposal as part of a
3 continuum of responses to prevent juvenile crime and
4 delinquency. No grant shall be awarded unless the
5 applicant makes available matching resources in an
6 amount equal to at least 25 percent of the amount of the
7 grant. Matching resources shall include cash in an amount
8 not less than 10 percent of the amount of the grant and
9 in-kind matching funds in an amount not less than 15
10 percent of the amount of the grant. Matching resources
11 shall not be derived from the General Fund, or programs
12 supported by those funds. In awarding grants, priority
13 shall be given to those proposals which include additional
14 funding that exceeds 25 percent of the amount of the
15 grant. In awarding grants, priority shall also be given to
16 programs in counties which have a demonstrated ability
17 to effectively administer programs which specifically
18 address the needs of at-risk youth who are eligible for
19 services under this program and their families.

20 (g) The Board of Corrections shall establish minimum
21 standards, funding schedules, and procedures for
22 awarding grants, which shall take into consideration, but
23 not be limited to, all of the following:

24 (1) Size of the eligible at-risk youth population.

25 (2) Demonstrated ability to administer the program.

26 (3) Demonstrated ability to develop and provide
27 programs designed to prevent delinquent and criminal
28 conduct among children who have chronic behavioral
29 problems which place them at risk of becoming wards of
30 the juvenile court under Section 601 or 602.

31 (4) Demonstrated history of maximizing federal, state,
32 local, and private funding sources for programs relating
33 to at-risk and delinquent youth.

34 (5) Likelihood that the program will continue to
35 operate after state grant funding ends.

36 (h) The participating counties shall create an
37 evaluation design that will assess the effectiveness of the
38 At-Risk Youth Early Intervention Program, including,
39 but not limited to, evaluation of the following criteria:

1 (1) The rate of criminal or delinquent activity by
2 program participants prior to and after their
3 participation in the program.

4 (2) Program satisfaction among parents, schools, law
5 enforcement, participating youth, and others who sought
6 services.

7 (3) School attendance and performance of
8 participating youth.

9 (4) An accounting of the types of services
10 recommended for and received by participating youth,
11 including, but not limited to, individual or family
12 counseling or both, substance abuse treatment, and any
13 other services rendered under the program.

14 (5) *An estimate, to the extent possible, of net cost*
15 *savings to the county as a result of the program.*

16 (6) Submission of periodic evaluation reports and a
17 final report to the Board of Corrections which provides a
18 detailed evaluation of the unique features of each
19 program

20 (i) The board shall develop an interim report to be
21 submitted to the Legislature on or before March 1, 2002,
22 and a final analysis of the grant program in a report to be
23 submitted to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2005.
24 *The interim and final report shall include, but shall not be*
25 *limited to, the data collected pursuant to subdivision (h).*

26 SEC. 2. The amendments proposed to Section 601.5 of
27 the Welfare and Institutions Code by Section 1 of this act
28 shall be operative upon the appropriation of funds by the
29 Legislature for the purposes specified in those
30 amendments. Funding for the At-Risk Youth Early
31 Intervention Program shall be administered by the board
32 from funds appropriated by the Legislature. Up to 5
33 percent of the total amount appropriated for this
34 program shall be available to the Board of Corrections for
35 purposes of administering the program.

36 SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
37 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or
38 safety within the meaning of Article IV of the
39 Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts
40 constituting the necessity are:

1 In order to permit the Board of Corrections to begin to
2 develop and implement procedures necessary to carry
3 out these provisions as soon as possible, it is necessary that
4 this act take effect immediately.

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